

Connecting to Sewer and/or Water

Updated 3/31/05

Homeowner's Responsibilities

Residents can currently connect to the sewer and water lines in your area. Homeowners are required to connect to sewer lines within one year of sewer being available (Bernalillo County Wastewater Ordinance 2000-7). There is no requirement to connect to the water system. In order to connect and use the system, you will need to do the following:

1 Establish an account with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA)

Before connecting to the utility, homeowners must establish an account with the ABCWUA (see information on opposite page). The ABCWUA charges fees to pay for maintenance of the main lines and the waste water treatment plant.

2 Connect your house to the utility.

Work may be done by a licensed plumber or you may do it yourself (see the "How to Do-It-Yourself" section on page four). The plumber must run a sewer and/or water line from the house or business to the sewer stub or water meter box located at the property line. If plumbers need to work in the Bernalillo County right-of-way, they must also have a permit from the Bernalillo County Public Works Division (848-1500, 2400 Broadway SE).

3 Obtain a permit and inspection from Bernalillo County Building and Zoning.

Your plumber must go to Bernalillo County Building and Zoning (314-0350, 111 Union Square SE), complete an application for connection, and pay a \$37.50 permit fee for sewer and \$30.50 permit fee for water. When the plumber is ready to make the connection to the sewer stub or water meter, Bernalillo County Building and Zoning must come and inspect the plumbing work. The plumber will handle this inspection; however, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that it is inspected. Please see "Plumber's Responsibilities" on opposite page for more information.



4 Abandon your septic tank.

Twenty-four hours prior to abandoning your septic tank, call the Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health (314-0310, 111 Union Square SE) to schedule an inspection. To abandon your septic tank, you must disconnect your septic tank, have all contents pumped out, crush the tank lid, and fill the tank with dirt, sand or gravel. After the work is complete, an inspection must be completed by Office of Environmental Health.

General Contacts:

Bernalillo County Public Works Division

2400 Broadway Blvd. SE > 848-1500

Utility Customer Services

Plaza Del Sol Building 600 2nd St. NW
> 924-3920

Bernalillo County Building and Zoning

111 Union Square SE > 314-0350

Wastewater Division

4201 2nd St. SW > 873-6200

Plumber's Responsibilities

The plumber will obtain a plumbing permit from Bernalillo County Building and Zoning. The plumber should provide you with a copy of the permit.

The plumber then needs to call for plumbing inspections. Three inspections are required for sewer and two for water.

- 1 After the line is connected to the stub or water meter at the property line, but prior to connection at the home.
- 2 After the line is connected to the home.
- 3 If connecting to sewer, the plumber is also required to call for a tank abandonment inspection from the Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health (314-0310) and follow the instructions listed on opposite page.

The plumber should provide you with a copy of all approval tags. Contact Bernalillo County Building and Zoning (314-0350) if you have any questions concerning your plumber.

How to Do-It-Yourself Homeowner's Permit

A homeowner can install the yard line and abandon the septic tank by following these steps:

- 1 Establish an account with the ABCWUA .
- 2 Take and pass the Homeowner's Plumbing Test held at Bernalillo County Building and Zoning (314-0350, 111 Union Square SE) on Mondays at 8:00 AM. The cost to take the sewer test is \$10 and the cost to take water test is also \$10.
- 3 Apply for a plumbing permit at Bernalillo County Building and Zoning, conduct the associated work and call for the appropriate inspections.
- 4 If connecting to sewer, abandon the septic tank and call for the appropriate inspections.

Establishing a Sewer and/or Water Account

Before connecting to the utility, homeowners are required to establish an account with the ABCWUA (924-3920). The following information is necessary when applying for service:

- 1 Applicant must be legal property owner,
- 2 Bring property tax notice,
- 3 Bring correct property address,
- 4 Bring legal description of property.

Utility Expansion Charge (UEC)

The Utility Expansion Charge for a home to connect to sewer is currently \$1200 and water is \$1599 (\$1419 for the UEC and \$180 for the water meter). The UECs are subject to change.

Application for a utility account must be made at the utility, located at the Plaza Del Sol Building 600 2nd St. NW, ground floor, north entrance. If you have any questions regarding establishing a utility account, please call Utility Customer Service at 924-3920.

Utility Loan Program (924-3920)

Rather than paying the full UEC fees at the time you apply for service, the ABCWUA offers a loan program to every applicant. It includes a down payment and monthly payments (7% interest rate).

Financial Assistance Available

The Bernalillo County Public Works Division, under the direction of the Bernalillo County Commission, can provide financial assistance through the PIPE program (Partners in Improvement and Protection of the Environment).

The PIPE Program is funded through the Environmental Services Gross Receipts Tax adopted by the County Commission in 1991 and the ABCWUA. The assistance is available to all homeowners who reside within the County and meet the financial needs criteria.

Please call Veronica Carrillo at 848-1524 for more information.